

Dr. Hall's Office
Stark County
Toulon, Illinois

HABS No. Ill.-247

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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. Ill.1.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, District Officer
435 North Michigan Ave., Chicago.

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DR. HALL'S OFFICE
Toulon, Stark County, Illinois

Owner - Miss Lucille McKee

Date of Erection - 1848 - 49

Builder - Charles Johnson, carpenter. Designed by Dr. Thomas Hall and his son, an attorney. Restored by Arthur Shinn in 1936.

Present Condition - Good. Restoration of portico inaccurate.

Number of Stories - One

Materials of Construction - Brick foundations, pine bevelled siding, wood shingles and brick chimneys.

Additional Data - This naive little structure originally stood on a hill south of the present home of Miss McKee but was moved by Dr. Walter T. Hall, son of the first Doctor Hall, to its present site as "More convenient for the patients". It is said to be the first doctor's office in the state and is a unique example, as far as the northern district is concerned, of the temple type. The facade is profusely carved and with more vigor than correctness, as far as attention to antique examples is concerned. The doorway directly across the street, measured by the survey, also showing this refreshing vigor, is obviously by the same hand.

The statement of a grandson, regarding circumstances surrounding the design of the office, is as follows:

"There were no blue prints, no architect. My father was an architect as well as lawyer. Grandfather was a poet as well as a physician. He told father that he wanted a pretty office, preferred Gothic. Father told him the Greek temple style was much better for a small building. Between them, they worked out what they wanted. Father, after dimensions were fixed, drew designs for the ornamental parts and old "Charlie" Johnson did the woodwork under guidance."

Dr. Hall was English born and trained in his profession. He came to Toulon in 1842, bringing with him a log cabin from Osceola Grove, Stark County, where he first settled. An early Vice President of the State Medical Association, he was a leading physician.

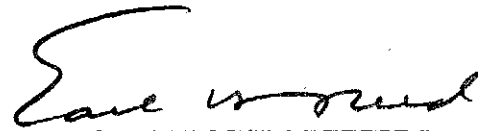
A curious statement is made linking a human skull brought from England by him, with the name of the real heroine of George Eliot's "Adam Bede", both fellow townspeople in Derbyshire.

Following old time custom and for lack of pharmacists along the frontier, Dr. Hall's outer office was provided along one side with wood shelves, cases and drawers, for drugs and other medical supplies. These, with his mortar and pestle and many old bottles, are still in place.

It is to be regretted that old details in connection with the portico piers were disregarded in the recent restoration.

References - Written statements of Mr. T. M. Shallenberger, Des Moines, Iowa, grandson of Dr. Hall.

By



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House, #301 Franklin St.
Toulon
Stark County
Illinois

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013